

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 11 and 21 as follows (a complete claim listing is provided below pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121):

1 1. (Currently Amended) A braking apparatus, comprising:
2 a first rotating member having at least one rigid stop thereon;
3 a plurality of flexible stops which are selectively movable toward said first
4 rotating member to engage said at least one rigid stop; and
5 an actuator which is slidable to selectively engage said plurality of flexible
6 stops and cause said flexible stops to move toward said first rotating member to
7 engage the rigid stop on said first rotating member;
8 wherein said actuator is arranged such that sliding movement thereof changes
9 the number of said flexible stops engaging said rigid stop to provide incremental
10 braking.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

1 3. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
2 actuator is slidable along a circumferential path spaced from said first rotating
3 member.

1 4. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
2 flexible stops are arranged in a plurality of rows with each row comprising a plurality
3 of the flexible stops, and said actuator is slidable to selectively engage said flexible

4 stops to move all of the flexible stops in each row simultaneously toward said first
5 rotating member.

1 5. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first
2 rotating member has a plurality of rigid stops thereon, and said rigid stops are spaced
3 circumferentially around said first rotating member and disposed in a generally axial
4 direction on an outer cylindrical surface of said first rotating member.

1 6. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said rows
2 of flexible stops are arranged generally parallel to said rigid stops.

1 7. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a ratio of
2 a length of said flexible stops to a height of said rigid stops is about 12 to 1.

1 8. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
2 actuator comprises a sliding member having at least one beveled surface for engaging
3 the flexible stops and moving the flexible stops toward the first rotating member.

1 9. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
2 actuator comprises a sliding member for engaging the flexible stops, and an interface
3 between said sliding member and said flexible stops comprises a beveled surface for
4 moving the flexible stops toward the first rotating member.

1 10. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said
2 flexible stops have longitudinal axes and are movable along their respective
3 longitudinal axes toward and away from said first rotating member.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The braking apparatus according to claim 10,
2 wherein said sliding member is arranged to slide along a ~~circumferential~~ path that
3 intersects said longitudinal axes of said flexible stops.

1 12. (Original) A braking apparatus, comprising:
2 a first rotating member having a plurality of rigid stops thereon, said rigid
3 stops being spaced circumferentially around an outer cylindrical surface of said first
4 rotating member;
5 a plurality of flexible stops arranged in a plurality of rows, said flexible stops
6 being selectively movable toward said first rotating member from a disengaged
7 position into an engaged position in which the flexible stops engage said rigid stops as
8 the first rotating member rotates; and
9 an actuator which is operable to move a selected number of rows of said
10 flexible stops into their engaged positions to provide incremental braking of said first
11 rotating member.

1 13. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
2 rows of flexible stops are staggered so that the flexible stops of adjacent rows are
3 offset from one another in both circumferential and axial directions of said first
4 rotating member.

1 14. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
2 rows of flexible stops each comprises a plurality of flexible stops arranged along a
3 line which is parallel to an axis of rotation of the first rotating member.

1 15. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
2 rows of flexible stops are arranged in a matrix and held in position by a grid such that
3 the flexible stops of adjacent rows are not in circumferential alignment with each
4 other.

1 16. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
2 rigid stops each comprises a blunt leading face projecting radially outwardly from an
3 outer surface of said first rotating member for engaging said flexible stops.

1 17. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said
2 rigid stops each further comprises a tapered trailing face that tapers from an outer
3 point of the blunt leading face to the outer surface of the first rotating member.

1 18. (Original) The braking apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said
2 flexible stops each comprises a blunt leading face for engaging said rigid stops and a
3 tapered trailing face.

1 19. (Original) A method of braking, comprising the steps of:
2 providing a first rotating member having rigid stops spaced circumferentially
3 therearound, and a plurality of rows of flexible stops which are movable toward said
4 first rotating member to engage said rigid stops; and
5 moving a selected number of rows of said flexible stops toward said first
6 rotating member to engage the rigid stops and provide incremental braking of the first
7 rotating member.

1 20. (Original) The method of braking according to claim 19, wherein said
2 step of moving said flexible stops comprises sliding an actuator into engagement with
3 said flexible stops to move said flexible stops toward said first rotating member one
4 entire row at a time.

1 21. (Currently Amended) The method of braking according to claim 20,
2 ~~wherein said rows of flexible stops are each arranged along a line extending generally~~
3 ~~parallel to an axis of rotation of the first rotating member, and~~ wherein said rows of
4 flexible stops are staggered such that the flexible stops of adjacent rows are not in
5 circumferential alignment with each other.